

[001]



## MULTI-STAGE TRANSMISSION

[002]

[003]

[004] The present invention concerns a multi-stage transmission of planetary structure, in particular an automatic transmission for a motor vehicle, according to the preamble of Claim 1.

[005]

[006] Automatic transmissions of the prior art, in particular for motor vehicles, comprise planetary gearset assemblies which are engaged by means of frictional or shift elements such as clutches and brakes and are usually connected to a starting element such as a hydrodynamic torque converter or a fluid clutch that can operate with some slipping action and is optionally provided with a bridging clutch.

[007] Such a transmission is described in EP 0 434 525 A1. It comprises essentially a drive input shaft and a drive output shaft arranged parallel to one another, a dual planetary gearset assembly concentric to the drive output shaft, and five shift elements in the form of three clutches and two brakes, whose selective engagement, two at a time, determines the various gear transmission ratios between the drive input and drive output shafts.

[008] Furthermore, from DE 199 495 07 A1 by the present applicant a multi-stage transmission is known, in which two non-shifting main gearset combinations are provided, which produce two rotation speeds on the output side which, besides the speed of the drive input shaft, can optionally be engaged with a shiftable dual planetary gearset assembly that acts on the drive output shaft, by selectively closing the shift elements used in such manner that to shift from one gear to the respective next gear up or down, only one shift element of the two shift elements actuated at the time has to be engaged or disengaged.

[009] In addition, within the scope of EP 0 434 525 A1 a multi-stage transmission is disclosed, which contains a drive input shaft and a drive output shaft arranged in a housing, a planetary gearset assembly arranged concentrically with the drive

output shaft consisting of four elements denoted as from the first to the fourth in the order of their speed, i.e. a so-termed double planetary gearset assembly, and five shift elements, namely three clutches and two brakes, whose selective actuation in pairs determines various transmission ratios between the drive input and drive output shafts, such that the transmission has two power paths which enable six forward gears to be engaged by the selective actuation of the five shift elements two at a time.

[010] The purpose of the present invention is to propose a multi-stage transmission of the type described at the start, in which the structural elaboration is optimised and, in addition, the efficiency in the main gears is improved in relation to slippage and gearing losses.

[011] According to the invention this objective is achieved by the characterizing features of the independent Claims 1 and 2. Advantages and further advantageous design features emerge from the subordinate claims.

[012]

[013] According to the invention, the multi-stage transmission of planetary structure comprises a drive input shaft and a drive output shaft arranged in a housing, at least three single-web planetary gearset assemblies, the first single-web planetary gearset assembly defining a fixed input transmission ratio for the second planetary gearset, at least six rotating shafts and at least five shift elements, preferably two brakes and three clutches or three brakes and two clutches, whose selective engagement in pairs produces various transmission ratios between the drive input and the drive output shafts, so that preferably six forward gears and one reverse gear can be engaged.

[014] In this case the drive output is via a shaft connected to the annular gear wheel of the second planetary gearset and to the web of the third planetary gearset, a further, third shaft being permanently connected to the web of the second planetary gearset and to the annular gear wheel of the third planetary gearset, and a further, fourth shaft being permanently connected to the solar gear wheel of the second planetary gearset and to the annular gear wheel of the first

planetary gearset; another shaft is permanently connected to the solar gear wheel of the third planetary gearset.

[015] In a first preferred embodiment comprising two brakes and three clutches, the drive input shaft is also connected via a clutch to the solar gear wheel and to the web of the first planetary gearset and the web or the solar gear wheel of the first planetary gearset is in rotationally fixed connection with the housing. In addition, a shaft is permanently connected to the solar gear wheel or to the web of the first planetary gearset.

[016] According to the invention a second embodiment is proposed, which contains three brakes and two clutches and in which the drive input shaft is connected directly to the solar gear wheel or web of the first planetary gearset, the web or solar gear wheel of the first planetary gearset can be put in rotationally fixed connection with or released from the housing via a brake, and a shaft is permanently connected to the web or solar gear wheel of the first planetary gearset.

[017] In this case the planetary gearset assemblies are coupled by means of shift elements and/or shafts; preferably, the first planetary gearset is made as a positive planetary gearset and the second and third planetary gearset as negative planetary gear sets.

[018] Thanks to the construction according to the invention, suitable transmission ratios and a considerable increase of the overall spread of the multi-stage transmission are obtained, which results in increased driving comfort and a significant reduction of fuel consumption.

[019] The multi-stage transmission according to the invention is suitable for any motor vehicle, in particular for passenger cars and goods vehicles such as trucks, buses, construction industry vehicles, rail vehicles, caterpillar track vehicles and suchlike.

[020] Moreover, with the multi-stage transmission according to the invention, the structural elaboration is reduced considerably by having a small number of shift elements, namely preferably only three clutches and two brakes or two clutches and three brakes.

[021] Advantageously, the multi-stage transmission according to the invention makes it possible to start up with a hydrodynamic converter, an external starting clutch or even some other suitable external starting element. It is also conceivable to enable a starting process with a starting element integrated in the transmission. Furthermore, the multi-stage transmission according to the invention operates with high efficiency in relation to slippage and gearing losses.

[022] In addition, the torques in the shift elements and even in the planetary gearset assemblies are small. This reduces wear in the multi-stage transmission in a particularly advantageous way. Owing to the low torques in the shift elements and planetary gearset assemblies the transmission can be made smaller, which optimises the use of structural space and leads to cost reduction.

[023] Furthermore, the transmission according to the invention is designed to allow adaptability to various drive train designs, both in the force-flow direction and from the standpoint of space.

[024]

[025] Below, the invention is explained in greater detail with reference to the drawings, which show:

[026] Fig. 1 is a schematic view of an example embodiment of a multi-stage transmission according to the invention;

[027] Fig. 2 is a schematic view of a second example embodiment of a multi-stage transmission according to the invention;

[028] Fig. 3 is a schematic view of a third example embodiment of a multi-stage transmission according to the invention;

[029] Fig. 4 is a schematic view of a fourth example embodiment of a multi-stage transmission according to the invention; and

[030] Fig. 5 is a shift scheme for the multi-stage transmission according to the invention, as illustrated in Figs. 1, 2, 3 and 4.

[031]

[032] According to Figs. 1, 2, 3 and 4 the multi-stage transmission of planetary structure according to the invention comprises a drive input shaft 1 (An) and a drive output shaft 2 (Ab), which are arranged in a housing, and three single-web planetary gearset assemblies P1, P2 and P3, of which the first single-web planetary gearset P1 is preferably made as a positive planetary gearset. The planetary gearset assemblies P2 and P3 are preferably made as negative planetary gear sets. In addition, six rotating shafts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 and five shift elements, namely three brakes 03, 04, 05 and two clutches 13, 16 (Figs. 1 and 2), or two brakes 03, 04 and three clutches 13, 15, 16 (Figs. 3 and 4) are provided, whose selective actuation two at a time brings about various transmission ratios between the drive input shaft 1 and the drive output shaft 2, so that six forward gears and one reverse gear can be engaged.

[033] As can be seen from Fig. 1, the drive input shaft 1 is connected directly to the solar gear wheel of the first planetary gearset P1 and the web of the first planetary gearset P1 can be put in rotationally fixed connection with, or released from the housing by means of a brake 05. According to the invention, the drive output shaft 2 is connected to the annular gear wheel of the second planetary gearset P2 and to the web of the third planetary gearset P3, and the shaft 3 is permanently connected to the web of the second planetary gearset P2 and to the annular gear wheel of the third planetary gearset P3. Further, the shaft 4 is permanently connected to the solar gear wheel of the second planetary gearset P2 and to the annular gear wheel of the first planetary gearset P1, while the shaft 5 is permanently connected to the web of the first planetary gearset P1 and the shaft 6 permanently to the solar gear wheel of the third planetary gearset P3.

[034] According to the invention, the shafts 3 and 4 can be coupled to the housing by the brakes 03 and 04 respectively; the clutch 13 connects the shafts 1 and 3 to or releases them from one another, and the clutch 16 connects the shafts 1 and 6 to or releases them from one another, while the brake 05 connects the shaft 5 to the housing or releases it therefrom.

[035] The embodiment shown in Fig. 2 differs from the embodiment according to Fig. 1 in that the drive input shaft 1 is connected directly to the web of the first planetary gearset (P1), the solar gear wheel of the first planetary gearset P1 can be connected to or released from the housing by means of a brake 05, and the shaft 5 is permanently connected to the solar gear wheel of the first planetary gearset P1.

[036] Figs. 3 and 4 describe example embodiments of a multi-stage transmission according to the invention, which have three clutches 13, 15, 16 and two brakes 03, 04.

[037] In Fig. 3 the drive input shaft 1 is connected via the clutch 15 to the solar gear wheel of the first planetary gearset P1 and the web of the first planetary gearset P1 is in rotationally fixed connection with the housing (shaft 0). According to the invention, the drive output shaft 2 is connected to the annular gear wheel of the second planetary gearset P2 and to the web of the third planetary gearset P3, and the shaft 3 is permanently connected to the web of the second planetary gearset P2 and to the annular gear wheel of the third planetary gearset P3. As can be seen from Fig. 3, the shaft 4 is permanently connected to the solar gear wheel of the second planetary gearset P2 and to the annular gear wheel of the first planetary gearset P1, the shaft 5 is permanently connected to the solar gear wheel of the first planetary gearset P1, and the shaft 6 permanently to the solar gear wheel of the third planetary gearset P3.

[038] Further, the shaft 3 can be coupled to the housing via the brake 03 and the shaft 4 can be coupled to the housing via the brake 04, the clutch 13 connects the shafts 1 and 3 to or releases them from one another, the clutch 16 connects the shafts 1 and 6 to or releases them from one another, and the clutch 15 connects the shafts 1 and 5 to or releases them from one another.

[039] The embodiment shown in Fig. 4 differs from that of Fig. 3 in that the drive input shaft 1 is connected via the clutch 15 to the web of the first planetary gearset P1, the solar gear wheel of the first planetary gearset P1 is in rotationally fixed connection with the housing (shaft 0), and the shaft 5 is permanently connected to the web of the first planetary gearset P1.

[040] In other embodiments the fixed connection of the web (Fig. 3) or the solar gear wheel (Fig. 4 of the first planetary gearset P1 to the housing can be replaced by a releasable connection, for example a brake.

[041] This enables an electric motor or other suitable additional drive source to be arranged on the shaft 0 released by means of the brake.

[042] The corresponding shift scheme of the example embodiments discussed above is the object of Fig. 5, in which, as examples, transmission ratios  $i$  and the resulting speed transitions  $\phi$  are also indicated.

[043] As shown, the multi-stage transmission according to the invention has a progressive gear variation. Furthermore, when shifting sequentially double-shifts are avoided, since two neighboring gears in each case use only one common shift element. Furthermore, any desired shift between the first and fourth gear and between the fourth and the sixth gear involves the actuation of only one shift element. In the embodiments of Figs. 1 and 2, for gears 1 to 4 the clutch 16 is permanently actuated; these gears are engaged by the additional actuation of the brake 03 (first gear), the brake 04 (second gear), the brake 05 (third gear) and the clutch 13 (fourth gear). For gears 4 to 6, the clutch 13 remains closed and the gears are engaged by the additional actuation of the brake 05 (fifth gear) and the brake 04 (sixth gear). According to the invention, engaging the reverse gear requires the actuation of the brakes 03 and 05.

[044] The shift scheme for the embodiments of Figs. 3 and 4 is analogous, with the difference that instead of the brake 05, the clutch 15 is actuated.

[045] According to the invention, at any suitable point in the multi-stage transmission additional freewheels can be provided, for example between a shaft and the housing or in order to divide or to connect a shaft.

[046] In addition, thanks to the structure according to the invention the drive input and output shafts can be arranged either on the same side of the transmission or on opposite sides. In addition, an axle differential or a transfer differential can also be arranged on the drive input or drive output of the transmission.

[047] In an advantageous further development the drive input shaft can if necessary be separated from a drive motor by a coupling element, and as that

coupling element a hydrodynamic converter, a hydraulic clutch, a dry starter clutch, a fluid starter clutch, a magnetic powder clutch or a centrifugal clutch can be used.

[048] Such a starting element can also be arranged after the transmission, and in that case the drive input shaft is in fixed connection with the crankshaft of the engine. According to the invention, starting can also take place by means of a shift element of the transmission, preferably by means of the brake 04, the brake 03 or the clutch 16.

[049] The multi-stage transmission according to the invention also enables a torsional oscillation damper to be arranged between the engine and the transmission.

[050] In a further embodiment of the invention (not illustrated), a wear-free brake can be arranged on any shaft, preferably in the drive input shaft or the drive output shaft, and this is of particular importance especially for use in goods vehicles. An auxiliary drive output can also be provided on any shaft for driving additional aggregates.

[051] The shift elements used can be made as change-under-load clutches or brakes; however, disk brakes, band brakes and/or conical clutches can also be used. Furthermore, form-enclosing brakes and/or clutches such as synchromesh or claw clutches can be used.

[052] A further advantage of the multi-stage transmission proposed here is that an electric machine can be connected to any shaft as a generator and/or as an additional drive.

[053] Clearly, any design structure and in particular any spatial arrangement of the planetary gearset assemblies and shift elements in their own right and relative to one another, provided it is technically appropriate and does not affect the function of the transmission as indicated in the claims, falls under the protection scope of the present claims even if the said structures are not explicitly indicated in the figures or the description.

Reference numerals

0      Shaft

1      Shaft

2      Shaft

3      Shaft

4      Shaft

5      Shaft

6      Shaft

03     Brake

4      Brake

5      Brake

6      Clutch

15     Clutch

16     Clutch

P1     planetary gearset

P2     planetary gearset

P3     planetary gearset

An     Drive input

Ab     Drive output

i      Transmission ratio

$\phi$     Speed change